

a mockery of the 2000 election's Florida recount. This will establish standards that every State must meet for every Federal election.

Passage of this bill will also authorize \$2.65 billion in funds to help meet these new high standards by replacing outdated voting equipment, and educate voters about the election process. Of this money, \$400 million is to help States replace outdated and unreliable punch card voting systems, the antiquated system which led to the Florida turmoil, and another \$2.25 billion is to help States improve their equipment, provide greater access to disabilities, better train poll workers, and educate voters about their rights.

Although I support this bill as a good start towards desperately needed reform, I recognize that it does not solve all of our election difficulties. I am very disappointed that the Rules Committee did not make in order the amendment offered by my good friends Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey, Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Their amendment would have solved many of the deficiencies contained in the bill, and make it more compatible with the bills currently being considered in the Senate.

Their amendment would mandate that the voting authorities begin to inform voters of a mistake in their ballot of voting for either too few or too many candidates. Nearly 200,000 ballots were thrown out of the Florida Presidential ballot because of over or under counting, and the technology to prevent this from occurring again is available. We should be using it.

The amendment would also require accessibility to alternative language voting for people with a limited grasp of English. This is a vital issue to me because the people in my congressional district, the Seventh District of New York, are native speakers of over 70 different languages. These hard working American citizens are just as entitled to vote as everyone else and should not be intimidated by the electoral process—something every citizen should hold dear.

Beyond that, this amendment ensures that the standards of the motor-voter law remain in order, to ensure that States cannot purge people from their rolls if they fail to vote in two consecutive Federal elections. It requires provisional ballots to be provided to voters missing from precinct registers, and notice be provided as to whether their residency was established and their vote counted following Election Day. The amendment ensures that national standards are maintained for error rates for voting machines, in addition to the other standards already established.

Although the Rules Committee did not make this amendment in order, I believe it is vitally important that these provisions be added to any bill that becomes law. Nonetheless, I continue to support H.R. 3295, which is a very good step in the right direction and support its passage today. But I hope that the Senate passes a bill containing all of these important provisions, and we are able to adopt it all in conference.

This bipartisan legislation has the endorsement of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform and its distinguished chairmen, former Presidents Carter and Ford. The National Conference of State Legislators and the National Association of Secretaries of State, both of which will have to deal with its mandates, have also endorsed it. They all recognize that this bill is the best way to help

rectify the problems of the 2000 election, and ensure that debacle never occurs again.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3295. Thank you Mr. Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO WORLD WAR II FLYING ACE, RICHARD WEST OF CHILLICOTHE, MO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to World War II flying ace Richard West of Chillicothe, MO. A member of 35th Squadron, 8th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force stationed in the South Pacific, Richard shot down 14 Japanese fighters during 1943 and 1944. He was one kill away from being a triple ace.

Amazingly, in his 173 combat missions flying P-40 Warhawks and P-38 Lightnings, Richard saw air-to-air combat only eight times. However, one of those times he shot down four planes, another time he shot down two planes.

Along with other American aces in the South Pacific, West's character became legendary as the "Samson of the Pacific". In the book, "Fighter Aces," it is said that he refused to cut his hair until he downed his first Japanese plane. Richard also authored his own book, "Three Songs and Other Poems," a book depicting the drama of air-to-air combat.

Richard West is a highly decorated war veteran who helped shape the course of our Nation. He is a member of the "greatest generation" and deserves our respect and thanks. I am proud to announce that on Saturday, January 12, the Chillicothe Municipal Airport Terminal Building will be named in his honor, a memorial long overdue. I thank Richard West for his service to our country.

INTRODUCING THE HUD HOUSING AND SECURITY FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House an innovative program created by the Houston office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies in the Houston area. This program, utilizing grant money from the Operation Safe Home program, hires off-duty law enforcement officers to provide security and patrol housing complexes and apartments that are owned by or receive funds from HUD. This program has been a great success, and has made residents feel safer and more secure in their homes.

Unfortunately, this program turned out to be too innovative. Although this initiative has been an unqualified success, it turns out that HUD did not have the authority to make these types of security decisions. I believe that we should allow our local communities and those

who know them best the flexibility to pursue the solutions that will decrease violence, drug use, and other crimes that plague much of the public housing in our nation today. I do not believe that Americans who need assistance with housing costs should be forced to live in fear.

That is why I am introducing the HUD Housing Security and Flexibility Act. This legislation would allow HUD to hire local law enforcement agencies for these purposes. It authorizes offices that receive or administer funds under either of the aforementioned programs to enter into contracts with police departments and other agencies. These contracts would be limited to 3 years in length, and would be solely for security, patrols, or other protective services at HUD-owned or -assisted housing.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this legislation will go a long way toward eliminating crime in our public housing, and making Americans feel safer in their homes. I hope that the Congress will take up this important legislation during the 107th Congress.

SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE PLUS ACT OF 2001

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Social Security Guarantee Plus Act of 2001 to save Social Security. I believe strongly that we can and will work in a bipartisan manner to save Social Security, provided we choose to legislate for the next generation, not the next election.

Two-thirds of a century ago, Social Security's framers designed the program to meet certain promises for the American people: the promise of a safety net of financial security, the promise that all workers would be treated fairly, the promise that Social Security would be owned by workers, for workers, and a program that workers and their families could count on should they retire, suffer disability, or die. However our nation's current demographics and economics have changed, and Social Security's ability to continue meeting these promises is threatened. The Social Security Guarantee Plus Act I introduce today will enable Social Security to continue keeping its promises.

First, through this plan, the Social Security safety net is fully preserved. Promised benefits, including cost of living increases, are guaranteed for those already receiving retirement, survivors, and disability benefits, those about to receive those benefits, and future generations.

Second, the plan treats all workers fairly. Workers have paid into the system, it's their money, and we must protect and enhance their investment. It's not fair to workers to raise their payroll taxes or lower their benefits. Nor is it fair for the government to tell workers to work longer. I do not want to create another "notch." That's why my plan does not raise taxes, does not lower benefits, and does not change the retirement age.

Third, Social Security dollars belong to the workers that sent them here, therefore this plan gives workers a real ownership stake in the program by allowing workers to choose to receive a tax cut to invest directly in safe, individually-selected, market investments. A new

nation of savers, not the government, will control their retirement security. Should an individual die before becoming eligible, the balance of their money will be passed along to their heirs.

Fourth, under my plan, Social Security can be counted on for the next 75 years, and beyond. Real assets guarantee current and new expanded benefits, not Government IOUs, establishing a sound and sustainable financial footing. There will be no more need to increase taxes or lower benefits every few years to keep the program working.

Beyond keeping these promises, we must do more to further improve Social Security for the women of our nation. Because of their longer life expectancies and lower earnings, women are more likely to suffer poverty in old age and therefore heavily depend on Social Security's vital safety net. In addition, because benefits are based on earnings, women are penalized when they choose to stay home to raise their children. The Guarantee Plus Plan increases protection for women, not only by securing the future of the current Social Security and guaranteeing full benefits, including cost-of-living adjustments, but also by enhancing benefits for widows, divorced spouses, and working mothers. These benefits become available immediately in my bill.

Congressman WALTER JONES (NC-03) said "we, as members of Congress, have a duty to our seniors to ensure their retirement security will not be jeopardized." I couldn't agree more. Therefore, the bill includes a provision, similar to that introduced by my friend WALTER JONES, where each beneficiary will receive a legally enforceable certificate guaranteeing his or her benefits.

Here's how the Social Security Guarantee Plus Plan works. The plan guarantees full, promised, current law benefits for all workers, whether you are 6 or 65. Just as companies must back your pension plan with real assets, the Guarantee Plus Plan saves Social Security by setting aside real assets, not IOUs, to pre-fund benefits. These assets are saved in each worker's own account, thereby providing workers the opportunity to create real wealth for themselves and their families.

Workers who choose to participate will receive a refundable credit of 2–3% of their earnings to establish their own Social Security Guarantee Account. Workers, not the government, would select where to invest their Guarantee Account funds. The assets in these accounts would grow tax-free. No withdrawals would be permitted until a worker starts receiving benefits to ensure that the money is preserved for retirement.

At retirement or when the worker becomes disabled, a portion of the Guarantee Account is paid directly to the worker and the rest is used to help pay full, guaranteed Social Security benefits. But that's not all.

My plan also includes much needed improvements in benefits for widows, divorced women, working women caring for young children, and women with work not covered under Social Security. My plan also eliminates the retirement earnings penalty for all workers age 62 and older.

The Guarantee Plus Plan does all this and pays for itself over the seventy five-year actuarial period, and that's confirmed by the Social Security Administration's Office of the Actuary. Even under the most conservative estimates, the Guarantee Plus Plan allows the new So-

cial Security system to generate surplus cash in the later part of the century, actually adding black ink to the government's bottom line.

Other plans may cost less because they cut benefits or raise taxes. If your goal is to keep current benefits, boost women's benefits, and return Social Security to financial independence, The Guarantee Plus Plan is the lowest-cost proposal to date. My plan uses general revenues to fund the accounts. Even assuming borrowing for a transitional period, my plan pays back every borrowed dollar plus interest within the 75-year evaluation period. Not only do we pay off the mortgage on Social Security, we leave workers with substantial account balances and the federal government with excess cash.

President Bush has shown true leadership by setting out principles for reform. The Guarantee Plus Plan meets or exceeds all of these principles.

Principle #1: Modernization must not change Social Security benefits for retirees or near retirees. My plan exceeds this principle, because it preserves and guarantees benefits for all workers and retirees. In fact, my plan improves benefits for everybody.

Principle #2: The entire Social Security surplus must be dedicated to Social Security only. For the first time available Social Security surpluses will be used to benefit Social Security directly.

Principle #3: Social Security payroll taxes must not be increased. My plan does not ever raise payroll taxes. In fact, my plan creates long-term savings that could potentially allow a payroll tax decrease.

Principle #4: The government must not invest Social Security funds in the stock market. My plan allows workers, not the government, to invest account contributions in safe, sound investment choices.

Principle #5: Modernization must preserve Social Security's disability and survivors components. My plan does not alter Social Security disability and survivor benefits in any way, except to increase guaranteed benefits for survivors and to increase income security for individuals with disabilities, who keep 5% of their account in addition to full, guaranteed benefits.

Principle #6: Modernization must include individually controlled, voluntary personal retirement accounts, which will augment the Social Security safety net. My plan provides workers all opportunity to voluntarily participate in personal accounts that they own and control without individual investment risk. These accounts ensure Social Security will be able to pay current law benefits for all workers for 75 years and beyond.

The President also convened a bipartisan Commission to issue recommendations for strengthening and modernizing Social Security. Later this month, we will see the Commission's final report, and our nation will embark on further debate regarding the future of this great program.

Just yesterday, the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution that summarized what actions we, as Members of Congress, should take in saving Social Security. This resolution clearly states that we should join with the President in saving Social Security as soon as possible. It also states that any plan to save Social Security should recognize the obstacles women face in securing financial stability at retirement, the critical role Social Security plays in preventing poverty and providing fi-

nancial security for minorities. Finally, it states that any plan to save Social Security should guarantee current law promised benefits, including cost-of-living adjustments, for current and future retirees, and should not increase taxes. My plan accomplishes all these objectives.

As the choices necessary to secure the future of Social Security become more clear in the coming weeks and months, I want America to know my choices for how to strengthen and improve Social Security for the next 75 years and beyond. I choose:

No to privatizing; yes to securing Social Security as we know it.

No to lowering benefits or increasing taxes; yes to benefit guarantees.

No to more government IOUs; yes to real savings through voluntary personal savings accounts.

No to government investment; yes to worker choice and worker-controlled investing in safe, market investments.

No to program bankruptcy and burdening our children with debt into years unknown; yes to a solvent, debt-free Social Security program.

Stepping up to the challenge and finding a solution is the "American" way; ignoring it is not. Those who truly want to keep Social Security's promises must do more than just stand on the sidelines—they must offer their own workable proposal to fix Social Security's finances. Those who only criticize the difficult and candid choices of people giving purposeful thought towards saving Social Security have no place in this serious debate.

We must work together to build on the Success of the past to make a strengthened Social Security system an asset to all and not a liability to our children and grandchildren.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO LORENZO BOOKER

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a young man whose name I predict we will hear for many years to come: Lorenzo Booker, a high school running back from my district who has been named the 2001 Gatorade National High School Football Player of the Year.

Mr. Booker was chosen for this national honor from more than 1 million male high school football players by the Gatorade Company and Coach and Athletic Director magazine. He joins a prestigious list of previous winners, including Emmitt Smith of the Dallas Cowboys and Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts.

During Mr. Booker's three seasons at St. Bonaventure High School in Ventura, California, he broke four California state records and helped his team achieve an impressive 42–0 record and three CIF–Southern Section Division XI championships. His records are: 8,501 rushing yards, 882 points, 137 touchdowns, and 131 touchdown runs. He averaged 11.23 yards per carry.

In his final high school game, he ran for 232 yards and scored five touchdowns. His speed, strength and elusiveness have led to comparisons with the likes of Barry Sanders, O.J. Simpson, Marshall Faulk and Gale Sayers.